

According to filings with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Amazon spent over \$4 million on consultants last year alone in an effort to prevent its warehouses from unionizing. As part of their illegal anti-union activity, they forced workers to attend closed-door anti-union meetings and discriminated against pro-union workers. After workers in Staten Island, New York voted overwhelmingly to join the independent Amazon Labor Union, Amazon has not only refused to negotiate a first contract with them but refuses to recognize that the union exists even though the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) certified their union victory.

Amazon has been penalized more than \$75 million for breaking federal discrimination and wage laws and is currently being sued by the NLRB to reinstate a worker who was illegally fired for organizing a union. The NLRB has found multiple instances of illegal opposition to unions by Amazon, and there are currently 59 open Unfair Labor Practice cases pending before the NLRB. Numerous current and former employees have alleged that Amazon engaged in illegal harassment and discrimination based on race, gender, and sexual orientation. Amazon misclassifies delivery drivers as independent contractors rather than employees to evade tax, wage, and benefit responsibilities. Amazon's inadequate workplace safety policies also pose grave risks to workers. In some cases, their workplace injury rates are more than 2.5 times the industry average. Last December, six Amazon workers died after they were required to continue working during unsafe weather conditions in a warehouse that did not have appropriate safety facilities or policies.

Mr. President: It is abundantly clear that time and time again Amazon has engaged in illegal anti-union activity. Amazon may be a large and profitable corporation, it may be owned by one of the wealthiest people in America, but it cannot be allowed to continue to violate the law and the rights of its employees. The time has come to tell Amazon that if it wants another federal contract, it must obey the law.

Since 2004, Amazon has received thousands of federal contracts worth billions of dollars. The Washington Post, also owned by Mr. Bezos, reported that Amazon is in line to receive a cloud contract from the National Security Agency worth up to \$10 billion—a contract that it should not receive as long as it continues to violate labor laws. Another Bezos-owned company, Blue Origin, may also receive a contract from NASA worth up to \$10 billion to fly a spaceship to the moon after more than 20 current and former employees alleged that this company repeatedly discriminated against workers and did not adhere to safety protocols.

Mr. President: Taxpayer dollars should not go to companies like Amazon and multibillionaires like Jeff Bezos who repeatedly break the law.

And let's be clear, it is not just Amazon and Blue Origin. According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, federal contractors were required to pay nearly \$225 million in back wages to workers for Service Contract Act violations between 2014 and 2019. An investigation completed by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions found that nearly 30 percent of the top 200 violators of workplace safety and wage theft were government contractors.

The federal government spends more than \$600 billion each year on contracts to thousands of companies who employ more than 4 million contract workers. These workers, just like every worker in America, deserve fair pay and benefits, safe workplaces, and the right to a union.

I urge you to ban companies who break federal labor laws from receiving federal contracts.

Sincerely,

BERNARD SANDERS,
U.S. Senator.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, President Biden, more than any other President I can recall, has talked over and over again about being pro-union. I appreciate very much what the President has said, and I know him to be absolutely sincere when he says it. But just this afternoon, in an article published in *POLITICO*, an article that dealt with my letter to the President, this is what the article said:

A White House official said that the President "has stated consistently and firmly that every worker in every state must have a free and fair choice to join a union and the right to bargain collectively with their employer." The official, who declined to be named, added that Biden believes "there should be no intimidation, no coercion, no threats, and no anti-union propaganda from employers while workers are making that vitally important choice about a union."

That is a statement from a White House spokesman this afternoon.

What I would say is that what this official said that President Biden doesn't want is precisely what is happening in Amazon right now. There is intimidation. There is coercion. There are threats and anti-union propaganda. In fact, what President Biden says should not be happening is precisely what is happening at Amazon.

Therefore, it is my view that the time for talk is over. The time for action is now. Taxpayer dollars should not go to companies like Amazon and multibillionaires like Jeff Bezos who repeatedly break the law. No government—not the Federal Government, not the State government, and not the city government—should be handing out corporate welfare to union busters and labor law violators.

Today, I say to President Biden: You promised to prevent union busters like Amazon from receiving lucrative contracts from the Federal Government. Keep that promise.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING ORRIN G. HATCH

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, Orrin G. Hatch will be remembered for many things. His 42 years of service in this body are marked by successes; historic and prolific legislation; and, of course, statesmanship. He served longer as a U.S. Senator than any other in the history of the State of Utah or in the history of the Republican Party.

At his retirement, he had passed more bills into law than any other legislator alive, an astounding 750. While the record of his service is remarkable and memorable, I invite the Senate and the Nation to remember Senator Orrin

Hatch by the things that he remembered every day, here in the Senate and in his private life.

Every day upon entering his Senate office, Orrin Hatch would look upon a prominently hung painting depicting his Utah pioneer grandfather and great-grandfather as they were fording a stream on horseback. This image, like so much else in his life, was a reminder of Senator Hatch's pioneer legacy, his ancestry, and destiny.

In Utah, there is almost no more honorable title than that of pioneer. In the particular parlance of our State, a pioneer is not merely someone who goes where others haven't gone before. No, a pioneer looks toward the future without forgetting who he or she is. A pioneer, like those who settled the Salt Lake Valley and much of the western United States, does so not out of conquest or in search of glory; a pioneer goes and works out of duty and responsibility and faith.

Orrin Hatch always remembered his roots. Raised the son of a mechanical laborer, he grew up in a family of little means. Orrin was one of nine children raised in a cramped Depression-era home without indoor plumbing. Two of Orrin's siblings died young. Another, his older brother Jesse, gave the ultimate sacrifice as a turret gunner flying over Austria mere months before the Allied victory in Europe.

Orrin always remembered this example of work and sacrifice from his parents and from his brother Jesse. The sense of duty to God, family, and Nation was the primary driver throughout his life.

He served a 2-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Ohio. He became the first in his family to graduate from college, attending Brigham Young University. He met Elaine Hansen, and the couple married in 1957. They later returned to Pittsburgh, PA, and Orrin completed law school at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, while living in what had previously served as a chicken coop in his parents' backyard. He worked as a metalworker and as a janitor to provide for his family while attending law school.

Never one to make much of a fuss about it, Orrin Hatch just did the work that was expected of him, and he did it remarkably well. He knew that life was not easy and that he couldn't expect handouts. He developed the reputation of a fighter, and while a dedicated friend with an inviting laugh, he would never forget the lessons he had learned young while in the amateur boxing ring.

After moving back to Utah and running a successful law practice in Salt Lake City, Orrin ran for the Senate to fight for the moral fiber and everyday work ethic of Americans that he felt was not being represented adequately in Washington, DC. He won, and he set out to defend family values and constitutional principles.

He would remember to do so throughout his career, pioneering the Hatch

Amendment, a proposed constitutional amendment that sought to correct the erroneous claim that there is a constitutional right to abortion, one that prohibits States from protecting unborn human life, and steadfastly advocating for a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Orrin Hatch defended life, religious liberty, economic responsibility, and personal freedom throughout his entire service in the U.S. Senate. His 750 proposals that became law cover everything from welfare reform to regulatory restructuring, to laws adjusting the Federal judiciary, to hallmark tax cuts. Hatch's tenure in the Senate was marked by his chairmanship of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Finance Committee, before serving as President Pro Tempore.

Senator Hatch helped rein in activist Federal judges and reformed the entire Federal judiciary, and has helped restore the true meaning of the Constitution as applied and interpreted by our courts.

Senator Hatch played a prime role in the nomination of every Supreme Court Justice for decades. He defended the Court and the honor of Justices serving and presenting themselves with different judicial philosophies.

Beyond his countless political accomplishments, Orrin Hatch was a dedicated father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and man of faith. He always remembered the most important things in life. He composed countless songs of praise and of patriotism. He served as a volunteer leader in his church congregations and in his communities. He founded the Orrin G. Hatch Foundation to carry on and remember his work and advocacy for collegiality and bipartisanship after his retirement from the Senate.

Orrin Hatch always remembered Utah. On weekends, you could find him at the grocery store, in his church congregation, rubbing elbows with people he knew and loved. He would talk about the politics of the day but also the news affecting communities and families he cared for. Those who knew him felt the care and the interest that he had.

After I had served as his Senate page, as a high school student, there were just a couple of photos on my wall as a teenager. One was of Karl Malone in his Utah Jazz jersey and another was a photo of me with Senator Orrin Hatch, one of my prized possessions.

Later, when I was serving as a missionary along the U.S.-Mexico border, on the Texas side, Senator Hatch sent me a note, along with a \$10 check, suggesting that I use it to go get a good lunch. I cherished the note and never could cash the check. You see, the memory and the memento were worth so much more than the lunch it could buy. I still have that check. It is a prized possession.

Orrin Hatch also remembered to work. He would come to the Senate

early and stay late. He would think years ahead and persistently, methodically, pursue his plans. He would take the time to build coalitions behind ideas and bring about needed reforms. Senator Hatch knew that the Senate was designed to be the cooling saucer, where ideas would steep and percolate, often over the course of years and even decades.

Yet Orrin always remembered the people behind the politics. He was a mentor and a friend to Senators from both sides of the aisle, and he built deep friendships with people of all political backgrounds. He cherished a friendship with Senator Ted Kennedy and called the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg a dear friend.

He instilled his hallmark good humor and sense of duty on the newer Members of the Senate. I was one of them. He greeted and accepted me warmly—mentioning only a few times over the years the fact that I had, decades previously, served as his Senate page.

He was a force for collegiality and co-operation, and while he remained dedicated to the principles and people who brought him to the Senate, he would work with anyone and everyone to get the job done.

Orrin Hatch was a giant of the Senate and a veritable pillar in Utah. His influence, his hearty laugh, and powerful advice are missed by us here in the Senate and by millions in Utah. I know I speak for the entire Senate in sending our deepest condolences and warmest appreciation to Elaine and to their children—Brent, Marcia, Scott, Kimberly, Alysa, and Jess, as well as their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The gift of Senator Hatch's life of service has made our State and our Nation better.

As I said, there is perhaps no more noble title in Utah than that of pioneer. Orrin Hatch was a pioneer, through and through—not just the descendant of pioneers but a pioneer in his own right. He followed in the footsteps of his forebearers, and he left a legacy of dedication, of service, and of truth.

I commend his memory to the history of our Republic, in the words of a beloved hymn fittingly entitled "They the Builders of the Nation." Here is how it goes:

They, the builders of the nation,
Blazing trails along the way;
Stepping-stones for generations
Were their deeds of every day.
Building new and firm foundations,
Pushing on the wild frontier,
Forging onward, ever onward,
Blessed, honored Pioneer!

I bid my friend Senator Orrin Hatch onward, ever onward. May we as a nation forever remember his legacy is my prayer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from Tennessee.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, from the second that they wake up in the morning to the moment they put

their heads on the pillow at night, the American people are burning through cash. And, as I have spent the last 2 weeks talking with Tennesseans, talking with people in the real world, this is a sentiment that they continue to talk about.

Now, they know inflation is real. It wasn't temporary. It wasn't something that was just a problem for the rich. It is a problem that hits every single individual, and the spin that is coming out of the White House really is not resonating with hard-working taxpayers anymore.

When I am out and about in Tennessee, people are talking about inflation, the border, and the sense of despair that they see taking over their communities. And they cannot get over the lengths to which this White House and this administration have gone to try to convince them that everything is OK, you don't have anything to worry about, and things are better than they have ever been.

They can't believe it. They can't believe that this administration is living in the land of denial, because they know that this message doesn't add up with the reality of their lives, and they have spent 16 months digging themselves out from under massive gas and grocery bills. Every time they fill up the tank or they fill up the grocery cart, they know that it is probably more than 8 percent inflation. Every time they go to the hardware store, they see it. When they are buying a gallon of paint or fertilizer for their garden, they see it. And the few discretionary dollars they used to allow themselves for some new clothes or the occasional food delivery now go to essentials, and, even then, they still are making tough choices. As I said, from the second they wake up in the morning to the moment their heads hit the pillow at night, the American people are burning through cash almost as fast as Joe Biden and the Democrats are burning through our taxpayer dollars.

The Biden administration might not take this seriously. They may say: We will just go print more money.

Look at the amount of debt they have run up. Tennesseans do take this issue seriously, and at this point, they laugh at the alternate reality coming from DC, and they know that the "Putin price hike" is something that is so divorced from reality.

It wasn't enough for Joe Biden to abandon his responsibilities. He had to take the extra step of exploiting the more than 2,500 innocent civilians Vladimir Putin has murdered in Ukraine. It is just disgusting. But that is the Democrats' playbook—isn't it?—never let a crisis go to waste; pick up words that you can use in your spin.

If the White House had stopped to think about what American taxpayers do when they are broke, when they have gotten to the end of their money before they get to the end of their month, when they have debt rolling